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FARM LABOR N

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Union Group Stops Alien-Labor Trek

EL CENTRO, CALIF., March 2—A "flying squad" of the National Farm Labor Union, A.F.L., forced the deportation of some 115 "wetback" Mexican farm larorers (illegal entrants) just as their presence in the United States, according to union officers, was being legitimized in an unlawful processing operation at the United States Immigration Service border office at Calexico, thirteen miles south of here.

The officers of the union, which has been campaigning against the extensive "wetback" traffic across the border as detrimental to domestic citizen labor, said that the 115 Mexicans were being certified for legal labor in California as if they were entering the United States from Mexico, whereas they actually had been rounded up north of the border at the instance of ranchers seeking cheap labor.

Estimating that upward of 4,000 "wetbacks" had been thus illicitly legitimized in the last two weeks, the union in messages to United States and Mexican officials demanded the closing of the border to all labor traffic for alleged violation of the current United States-Mexico agreement regarding the importation of contract labor.

Under this agreement, Mexican nationals may be imported for temporary labor in the United States when their need on specific jobs is certified by the United States Employment Security Service.

In addition, because of the presence in the Southwest of large numbers of Mexicans who have filtered illegally across the scantily-patrolled border in numbers authoritatively estimated as high as 10,000 a month, the agreement stipulates that "wetbacks" who voluntarily report to Mexican consuls along the border and return to Mexico will be given priority in legal importation hiring.

This was the provision that the union contended, while ostensibly being observed, actually was being flouted.

The border drama began at 7 A. M. (Pacific Standard Time) in front of the Maraco cafe in the little farm town of Westmoreland, thirty-three miles north of the border.

Three standard overland buses, presumably chartered by ranchers, pulled in from the north and took aboard the 115 "wetbacks" recruited, according to the union, by a Westmoreland man for a fee of $10 a head.

Protests to Consul

A union group, headed by Dr. Ernesto Galarza, vice president, followed the caravan, escorted by three private cars, down the highway to Calexico, the main port of entry in the area, which is divided by a fence

(Continued on Page 2)

Pride and Prejudice

Silas Judson is not his name, but the man we are about to refer to is a human in the flesh as any one of us.

We met him first in Memphis, Tennessee. That was years ago. Judson was quite intelligent; was an active member of our organization; took part in civic enterprises and boasted that he was one hundred percent American—except that he had a feeling the Negro should be "kept in his place." He could never believe they should be allowed to sit in the union meeting nor to attend schools with whites. In fact, he openly contended the Negro is an "inferior type" and that "God never intended him to be the equal of the white man."

Some years later we met Silas Judson again. He was not as active as formerly. Said he had the rheumatism which was keeping him from getting good jobs in meat shops. He thought it was a shame that "Niggers" were being hired in Memphis in some shops while white members were loafing.

We made another trip to Memphis later and met Silas Judson again. He was in a wheel chair. His hands looked cramped and twisted. His face showed signs of excruciating pain. Rheumatoid arthritis was taking its horrible toll. "Why can't someone do something for the millions of arthritis suffers like me?" he asked. "There ought to be someone somewhere who can develop a remedy that would be helpful—if only to ease the pain." We told Judson to have hope and courage and a remedy would be found. He said he would kiss the hand of that man.

A short time ago we visited Memphis and saw Silas Judson again. He was out of his wheel chair. His pain had disappeared and he expected to go back to work "very shortly." Judson told us that his doctors had treated him with Cortisone, the new miracle drug, for arthritis. We asked him if he would still kiss the hand of the man who discovered Cortisone. "I sure would" Silas Judson replied.

It so happened on that very day we had a newspaper in our pocket. On the front page was the picture of Dr. Percy Julian, the great Negro chemist who discovered Cortisone. We showed it to Judson. He looked at it a moment in silence and said, "To me this Negro, next to Christ, is the greatest man that ever lived."

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'Back Door' of Nation Left Open To Red Agents, Union Charges

WASHINGTON, D. C.—A joint hearing of the Senate and House Committees on Immigration was told that the "back door" to the United States, the Mexican border, was open to agents of Communist Russia entering in the guise of agricultural laborers.

Quoting at length from articles in the Los Angeles Daily News beginning Feb. 19, H. L. Mitchell, president of the National Farm Labor Union, AFL, urged the committees to change the immigration laws and penalize employers of aliens illegally in the United States.

Mitchell said that the adoption of such a law would close the door to Communist agents, and stop the waste of tax payers' money spent in deporting Mexican "wetbacks." He estimated that it cost over $11-millon to deport nearly half-million illegal aliens from Mexico last year.

Under the proposal made by the Farm Labor Union Official, any person, including an employer, in any trade, industry or agricultural enterprise, who employes, harbors, conceals or brings into the United States an illegal alien would be subject to $2,000 fine and prison term not exceeding 5 years for each illegal alien he might employ.

Mitchell said that a representative of the union in California made an inquiry of the U. S. Attorney General as to enforcement of present laws and was advised that the present immigration law forbids the harboring or concealing of illegal aliens but that it was so peculiarly worded that it does not allow the imposition of sentence upon conviction.

The union head also urged that quotas be established for all countries of the Western Hemisphere, and suggested that the Attorney General be required to hold public hearings to determine the need for labor before approving the petition of an employer for permission to import laborers.

Union Offers Aid in Fight On Reds

Aid to growers in preventing Communist agents from coming into Kern county as wetbacks was offered today by the Delano local of the National Farm Labor Union (A.F.L.)

The union offer, released by William Becker, pointed to newspaper reports that Communist agents were coming in with farm laborers from Mexico and called on growers to aid by adopting a policy of refusal to hire illegal aliens.

Bill to Import Farm Labor Unfair to U.S. Workers

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Legislation introduced by Representative W. R. Poage of Texas for importing labor to work in agriculture is unfair to American citizens, the National Farm Labor Union, AFL, told the House Committee on Agriculture.

H. L. Mitchell, president of the union, said that provisions of the bill, H.R. 3048, provide that the government shall assist foreign workers in negotiating contracts with employers and provide guarantees as to payment of wages and transportation. Mitchell added that this assistance had never been provided for American farm workers.

Mitchell charged that at least 10 percent of all Mexican nationals, imported into the United States, jumped their contracts and disappeared and that the Poage bill would prohibit the immigration authorities from requiring a penalty bond of the employers of foreign workers to insure their return home upon termination of employment. The Poage bill provides that no workers should be imported if such importation adversely affects domestic workers. Mitchell said that in every instance heretofore, when large numbers of foreign workers have been imported, wages of Americans have been reduced. He also charged that numbers of such foreign workers to be imported were based solely on estimates made by employers.

Yorty Bill Favored

The union official urged that similar legislation introduced in the House by Representative Samuel W. Yorty of California, H.R. 2955, be considered, since it provides for recruitment and transportation of American workers, and a national farm labor board composed of representatives of employers, workers and the public, to determine need for labor and wage rates to be paid workers transported at government expense. Under the Yorty bill the Secretary of Labor would also be authorized to inspect, approve and operate housing needed by farm workers.

UNION GROUP STOPS

(Continued from Page 1)

from its twin Mexican town of Mexicali.

Here, the workers were lined up in the United States immigration office and "processed," Dr. Galarza asserted, as Mexican workers legally in the United States being recertified, emerging with white work cards.

The union vice president protested to Elias Colungo, Mexican consul in Calexico, that the operation was a "fraud," and demanded that it be stopped.

After a two-hour conference with the immigration officers, Senor Colungo told the waiting union group that, as result of a telephone call to the Immigration Service regional headquarters in Los Angeles, it had been agreed that the Mexicans should be deported. After being allowed to eat lunch in Calexico, they were escorted across the line into Mexicali.

The union's headquarters, here, said that it did not know what employers the Mexicans were being certified for during the interrupted processing, but that it had photographs of some of the unidentified Americans involved in the labor roundup.

Galarza telegraphed Glenn Brockway, director of the United States Employment Security Service regional office in San Francisco, requesting an immediate investigation of the episode.

He also wired Rafael De La Colina, Mexican Ambassador in Washington, reqesting him to instruct Senor Colunga to close the border to the immigration of Mexican workers for violation of the international agreement.

The Monkeys' Disgrace

Three monkeys sat in a cocoanut tree,
Discussing things as they're said to be.
Said one to the others, "Now listen, you two;
There's a certain rumour that can't be true.
That man descended from our noble race.

The very idea is a disgrace.
No monkey ever deserted his wife,
Starved her babies and ruined her life.
And you've never known a mother monk
To leave her babies with others to bunk,
Or pass them from one to another,
Till they scarcely know who is their mother.

And another thing you'll never see:
A monk build a fence 'round a cocoanut tree
And let the cocoanuts go to waste,
Forbidding all other monks to taste.
Why, if I put a fence around a tree,
Starvation would force you to steal from me.

Here's another thing a monk won't do:
Go out at night and get on a stew,
Or use a gun or club or knife
To take some other monkey's life.
Yes, man descended, the ornery cuss,
But, brother, he didn't descend from us."

South Carolina Kills Poll Tax

One bright light in the gloom of reaction which settled over the country November 7th shone in South Carolina.

There the citizens voted against retaining the poll tax as a requirement for voting.

That leaves only six states which require voters to pay the tax before they can ballot. They are Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

Farm Union Down East

MONTPELIER, VT., Feb. 1.—The startling success of National Farm Labor Union's drive to organize traditionally independent dairy farmers in this state has many a hide-bound New Englander scratching his head and looking for reasons.

Up in the rocky country that snuggles along the shore of Lake Champlain and the Canadian border, organizers for the AFL union are being given the glad-hand by farmers who wouldn't have let the word "union" pass their lips a year ago.

Perhaps it might help critics of the union here in the Green Mountain State to understand why small producers are turning to a labor union for help if they could study the case-history of Ray Strand, an AFL carpenter who was born and raised on a dairy farm and has been trying to make one pay ever since the end of World War II.

A Dream of Home

Ray, a young, stockily-built man with a mop of unruly black hair, doesn't live in Vermont, but has a farm in Cloquet, Minn., where the ground is equally rocky and unsuitable for anything but dairy farming. His experiences show clearly why the New Englanders Must Unionize Just as he and his neighbors did.

He served as a carpenter's mate 2nd class on the USS Rixey in the South Pacific. It was a combination transport-hospital ship — taking in fresh troops and removing wounded.

On some of the quieter days Ray used to stand at the ship's rail, look at the lush green of those Pacific isles and dream of Minnesota where (he was sure) the grass was greener.

It didn't work out that way, however, and Ray became one of the leaders among the small "marginal" farmers in the Duluth-Superior area who have turned to the NFLU to help win a decent standard of living.

When he mustered out of the Navy he bought his parents' farm of 120 acres, 46 of which are clear, and got married. So far his wife Doris and he have had three children—Tom, 4; Gloria, 3; and a baby, Steve.

Can't Make It Pay

Success didn't crown Ray's other efforts quite as well. He had 12 cows and was among the top three producers among small farmers in this state, yet he seemed to go continuously in debt.

Ray finally took a stub of pencil and sat down to figure things out. He found that while he was promised a top price of $4.50 he was actually paid a "blend price" of $3.20 a hundred pounds. Thirty cents went to shipping, so that he received less than $15 a day for the 500 pounds of milk he shipped to the dairy. That didn't take into account his investment in his farm, or cows, or what he spent for feed. During two "dry" months he ships only 100 pounds of milk a day. And Ray's cows produce at more than double the rate for the average cow in this state.

Is it any wonder that he dusted off his carpenter's tools and went back to that trade—or that hundreds of others have applied for "training" under the GI Bill of Rights to obtain the $97.50 subsistence money each month?

Ray was one of the small farmers who turned to co-ops with their sorrows, but they claim co-ops have long since got out of their control. John Banks, Jr., former co-op officer and small-time farmer near Superior, Wisc., is now president of Local 284. National Farm Labor Union, because he found his own co-op had fallen into the hands of businessmen and bankers.

Strike Brings Raise

There are three major dairies in this area—two co-ops and an independent. When the farmers started a drive for a 45c per hundredweight increase, the dairies turned thumbs down. Finally last August one co-op, Arrowhead, gave the 45 cents, plus another 45 cents which went into effect in January.

Bridgeman-Russell, the independent, refused until a one-day strike brought them around and a two-day strike at Twin Ports Co-op swung them into line. The increase so far amounts to only ⅘ of a cent per quart and it has not been passed on to consumers.

The milk companies insisted that "bargaining" on price of milk would remove Federal guarantees, but Banks and a group of small milk producers journeyed to Washington and got the promise of Secretary of Agriculture Brannan that he would not remove the minimum.

"We prefer to look at the Federal guarantees in much the same manner that working men look at the Federal minimum wage law," Banks said. "We want those prices only as a floor when things get rough, but we do not want them to act as a bar to negotiations!

"It's amazing," declared Banks, "how things have changed. Why, one old farmer who used to turn white at the mention of 'union' stopped me the other day on the street and said, 'Anytime you don't want me to ship my milk—just you tell me, won't nary a drop leave the farm.'"

Not Very

Mrs. Flannagan: "Was your husband in comfortable circumstances when he died?"

Mrs. Murphy: "No; he was half way under a train."

FARM WORKERS IN 1950

By BETH BIDERMAN,
Executive Secretary

The national crisis this year and for some years to come demands record agricultural production. There is little doubt that this demand will be met and that farm owners will be rewarded for their efforts with substantial profits. Whether farm labor will receive even an approximation of a minimal American standard of living is the great question about, and the challenge to, our agricultural economy.

Moves toward evolving a sensible and beneficial plan for utilizing American farm labor to its fullest extent made 1950 perhaps the most hopeful year in recent agricultural history. A National Commission on Migratory Labor and a State local committee in California began studies toward this end. The needs for these studies has long existed, but in 1950 they were brought into sharp focus by widespread national publicity in newspapers and magazines. At long last the plight of the agricultural worker is receiving more attention than at any time since the attempted suppression of the organizing efforts of the old Southern Tenant Farmers Union in the thirties.

But hopes and hopeful indications rather than achievements characterized the 1950 farm labor picture

Agricultural Workers in the Crisis Economy

As soon as the Department of Agriculture requested maximum crop production, spokesmen for the large farmers began a movement to ensure a continuance of a labor surplus designed to maintain substandard wages. The Department of Labor was asked to prepare legislation which would allow the importation of 400,000 Latin American farm workers during 1951. Against the unsupported cries of "labo rshortage" advanced by the farm lobby stands the report of Louis Ducoff, Bureau of Agricultural Economics labor expert, that "there is at present far less than full utilization of seasonal farm labor, both local and migratory. For example, in 1949 about 1.6 million seasonal farm workers (almost half the peak farm labor force) had less than 25 days of work at farm jobs during the year."

Demands of the farm owners, quick to seize on the crisis economy to depress labor standards, went beyond an attempt to get an unlimited supply of cheap labor. The farmers have asked the Department of State to abrogate the clauses in its agreement with Mexico which guarantee Mexican nationals working in the U. S. prevailing wage rates and living standards. At one meeting it was even hinted that child labor and school laws should be changed to permit migrant children of school age to work in the fields. At a closed session of the House Agricultural Subcommittee on Farm Labor one Congressman, a friend of the farm lobby, said that, at a time when men's lives were being sacrificed, he saw no reason why children should not do their part by working on farms. It is because farmers have not been able to use child labor that they have resorted to hiring "wetbacks" (illegal Mexican immigrants) who have been reported working in California's Imperial Valley for as little as $3.00 and meals per week.

The only hope of countering these efforts to keep the farm worker the forgotten man he has been been for so many years lies in the hearts and minds of an American public ready to take action in support of permanent measures to stabilize and reward agricultural employment.

Housing

Most farm workers continue to live in substandard housing: tents, shacks, roadside camps. Two hopeful events bring some promise of change.

The National Housing Act, after much pressure, has been amended to stop the leasing of Government-owned migrant camps to large farm interests in whose hands the camps were allowed to deteriorate. Groups supported by the National Sharecroppers Fund are endeavoring to get the Public Housing Authority to restore maintenance, health and educational facilities discontinued by private operators.

The Southern Regional Council, to whose work we contribute, has stimulated several rural communities to set up Housing Authorities under the 1949 Housing Act to build and manage rural non-farm housing. This means decent housing for a limited number of Southern farm workers.

Wages

Most farm products sold at all-time highs in 1950. Farm wages remained pitifully low. Official figures for the year are not available at this writing, but the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported an average wage of 59 cents an hour in October, one of the peak seasons for farm labor.

The new social security law for the first time includes some farm workers, although the most needy majority (an estimated 3,500,000) are still excluded. To qualify under the new act, a farm worker must have worked regularly for three months for the same employer and must continue to work for him at least 60 days of the next calendar quarter.

All farm workers are still denied unemployment insurance, minimum wage law protection, and even the minimal protection offered by the Taft-Hartley law.

Food and Clothing

Prices up, earnings down, living standards submerged . . . this is the 1950 inflation story of the farm workers.

Acreage allotments for several of the major crops were cut during the year resulting in a decrease in the number of working days for farm laborers and a decrease in cash available to buy goods at 1950 prices. The average male migrant worker was employed 79 days on farms for $442 cash income. Cases of starvation and severe malnutrition were reported in California, Arizona and even Nev York, "The Empire State."

The National Farm Labor Union

The National Farm Labor Union is the one organization working in the field which accomplishes the most for farm workers. Although union membership grows slowly, its work increasingly improves. With few of the legal and political protections available to other unions, the National Farm Labor Union maed significant advances during 1950. Eight thousand new members were added in 1950. Union leaders and members, with record election registration among farm workers, lent active support to candidates pledged to a positive agricultural program. Several victors ddi not hesitate to credit farm labor support for their triumphs.

Wage increases were won in four successful strikes. In March, sugar beet workers won a raise of $3.50 per acre, and Union negotiations several weeks later won cotton gin workers a 26 cent per hour increase. Perhaps the most significant victory came in a September strike in California tomato fields when the Union successfully attacked a part of the labor contractor system.

One of the worst features of the California "factories-in-the-field" is badly - controlled labor contracting. Most large growers rely on labor contractors to supplyr farm workers. State laws governing contractors are so lenient that the workers frequently suffer Farm laborers have been victimized by unscrupulous contractors for years. The gravest form of abuse, a "bonus" system, was actually a pay hold-out of 2 cents per box picked—presumably returnable at the end of the season but usually pocketed by the contractor through one subterfuge or another. "Wetbacks" played a prominent strike breaking role. Over 1,000 illegal immigrants were held by the growers in labor camps under armed guard, were escorted across picket lines and kept under armed custody as they worked in the fields. After union protests brought an Immigration Service raid, some growers immediately sent trucks to the border to bring in replacements. Through the determination of the workers, the strike was won after three weeks with an increase of 6 cents per box and abolishment of the old "bonus" system.

The union was also successful in gaining an increase for cotton pickers of 50 cents per hundred pounds this year. But increased mechanization and crop cut backs gave employment to less pickers this year.

In each of these strikes civil liberties violations of grave national implications were used by supporters of the farm block to fight Union efforts. County ordinances were passed prohibiting "caravaning" (defined as more than two automobiles in a procession), other forms of picketing, and "loud and raucous noises of any description." Even though most identical ordinances had been held unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of California, County Boards of Supervisors yielded to large farmer pressures to re-pass these acts to meet immediate strike-breaking needs. The Union has instituted suits against the erring counties and the Associated Farmers, but in the meantime the Union's work was obstructed enough to force unsatisfactory settlements in several cases. Twelve union leaders were arrested under these unconstitutional ordinances and, in the process, a farm strategy emerged which seems to work on this pattern: (1) pass an unconstitutional ordinance to hamper or defeat a strike, (2) carry on a long legal fight until the ordinance is declared unconstitutional, (3) pass the same kind of ordinance during the next strike.

The only solution to this tactic, a threat to all civil liberties, is to provide the Union with sufficient funds for continued legal and political action and to enlist the support of all citizens interested in upholding the principles of the Bil lof Rights.

Governor's Committee in California

On March 3, Governor Warren appointed a fact-finding committee to investigate the problems of farm workers in the San Joaquin Valley. The Committee has recently submitted a preliminary report. Although most of the recommendations are tentative in nature, the report deals significantly with some of the major problems.

Probably the most important findings concerned abuses inherent in the labor contractor system. At present, labor contractors are loosely defined in the Labor Code and are required to post a surety bond of only $1,000. During harvest seasons, most payrolls far exceed this amount, tempting dishonest contractors to abscond with large payrolls. In September, for instance, a licensed contractor in the San Joaquin Valley pocketed a payroll of $12,000 and disappeared.

Other recommendations of the committee include: increased transportation safeguards; unemployment insurance for agricultural workers; extension of social security to all agricultural workers; better schooling for migrant children; child care centers for migrant children; increased border vigilance to prohibit the entrance of Mexican "wetbacks"; and the establishment of a permanent and in-

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FARM LABOR NEWS

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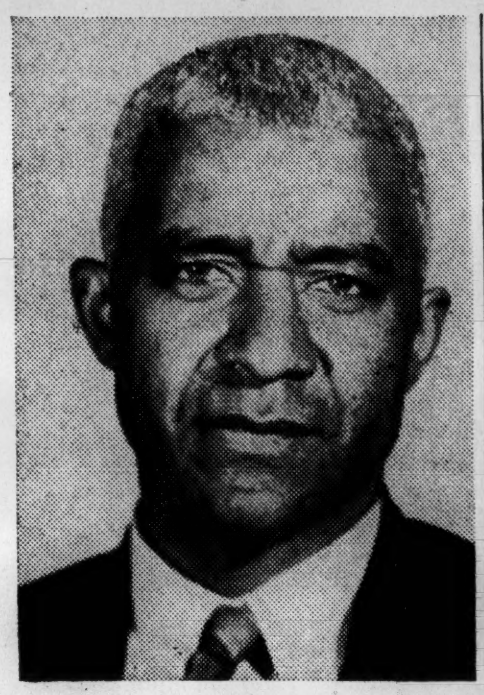
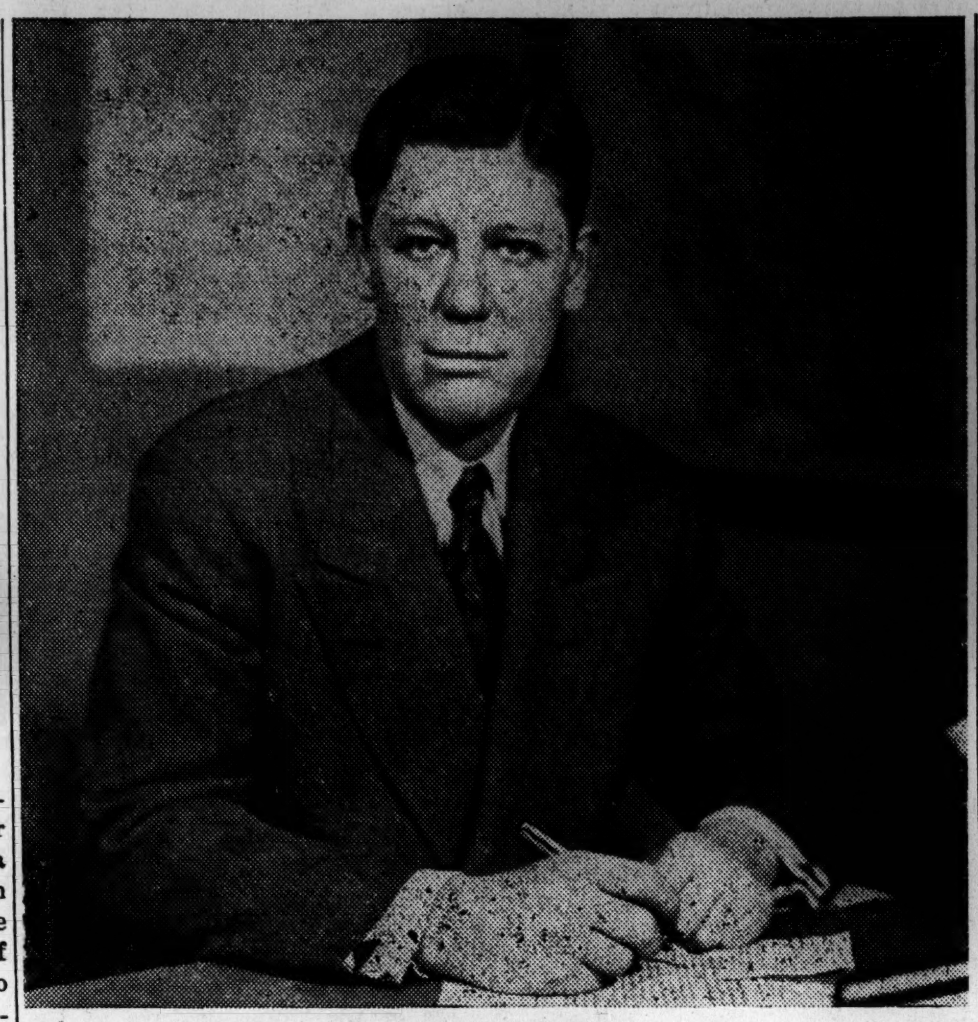
FARM LABOR UNION LEADERS



F. R. BETTON
First Vice President

F. R. Betton is the first Vice-President of the National Farm Labor Union. He was first elected as a Vice-President in 1938, and has been re-elected by every convention since that time. Betton is a native of Georgia—the son of ex-slaves—who has devoted his life to bringing freedom to down trodden men, women and children of his race. He was a small farm owner and a school teacher. For over 20 years he made his home near Cotton Plant, Arkansas. He and his wife have raised and educated 13 children. For 20 years, Farish R. Betton was the only Negro Justice of Peace in Arkansas, if not in the entire south. He has made his home in St. Louis since he sold his farm near Cotton Plant and decided to devote the rest of his years to the Union in the southern States. Respected alike by Negro and white, in and out of the Union, F. R. Betton is the right hand of the National Farm Labor Union.

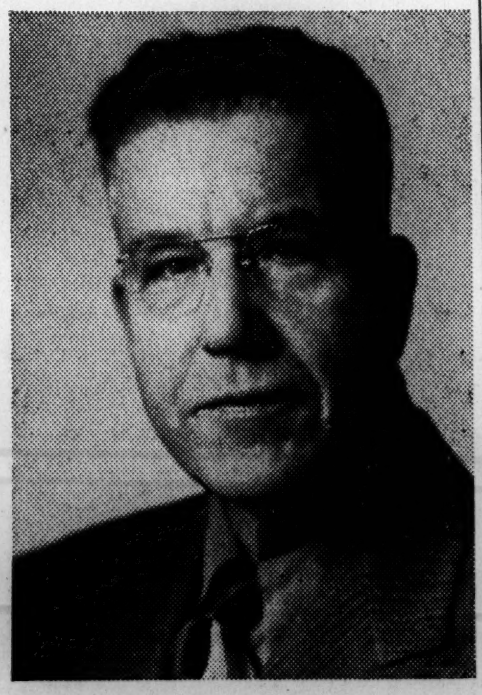


H. L. MITCHELL
President

H. L. Mitchell was one of the 18 men who met together in an abandoned schoolhouse near the town of Tyronza, Arkansas in July of 1934, to form the first union, known for 12 years as the Southern Tenant Farmers Union. Mitchell was born on a farm in Tennessee 45 years ago, and says he was educated at the University of Hardknocks between the plow handles. He has been a farm worker, sharecropper on cotton plantations in Tennessee and Mississippi. He ran a dry cleaning business in Arkansas at the time the Union was started. A writer once described him as "pressing the pants of the planters while brooding over the plight of the sharecropper." He was the first elected Secretary of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, and held this position until 1944, when he was chosen as President. For years, his has been one of the few voices in the United States raised on behalf of the man at the bottom of the agricultural ladder. Since 1947, when the office of the National Farm Labor Union was moved to Washington from Memphis, H. L. Mitchell has been the chief spokesman for the nation's farm workers before Congressional Committees, and with agencies of government.

DOROTHY DOWE
Secretary Treasurer

Dorothy Dowe came to work for the National Farm Labor Union in 1944 as office secretary. She did such a good job that the delegates to the annual convention, a year later, elected her to the post of Secretary-Treasurer. She has been re-elected by each convention ever since. Dorothy was born in Louisville, Ky. — how many years ago—well you can guess. Like most ladies, she doesn't tell her age. She was raised in the "deep south" and talks that way. Educated at Alabama Polytechnic Institute and Tulane University, New Orleans, she was an area director for National Youth Administration in Alabama, and also served as Director of the USO Travelers Aid at Camp McCain, Miss. during the war. She now describes her post as Secretary-Treasurer of the Union, as "Keeper of the Deficit," or caretaker of the money the Union never has.



L. N. GREGORY
Dairy Farm Organizer

L. N. Gregory is a dairy farmer in up-state New York. He has been in every organization that the dairy farmers have had in his State for the past 20 years. For 7 years he helped organize his fellow farmers in the U.M.W.A. Dist. 50. In 1949, he quit, and got in touch with the A. F. of L. asking if there was an A. F. of L. Union who would organize the dairy farmers of his State. He was referred to the National Farm Labor Union. He began working; first, he organized the farmers in his home community and then began spreading the union throughout the State. Today there are 14 strong local unions in New York and another over in Vermont that Gregg has helped the farmers organize. Six days a week Gregg is out on the road, calling on dairy farmers, meeting with them, helping them in negotiations with the dealers.

FARM WORKERS

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dependent agency to be known as the California Agricultural Labor Resources Board.

President's Commission on Migratory Labor

On June 3, President Truman ordered an investigation and study of conditions among the country's farm workers. This Commission had been suggested to the President by H. L. Mitchell, President of the National Farm Labor Union, in the fall of 1949. At hearings throughout the country, the Commission uncovered much startling information. In Arizona, three U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service officers flatly charged that a "pressure group" of big farmers was forcing suspension of law enforcement against illegal Mexican immigrants in order to obtain cheap labor.

In California, the Commission heard of domestic workers earning weekly wages as low as $5.10, and even more shocking cases of contract Hawaiian workers receiving checks of $1.45, $1.11 and $2.72 after "deductions and adjustments."

The Commission is expected to present a report on its findings early this spring.

The National Sharecroppers Fund in 1951

All these trends indicate that for the first time thorough official investigations can enable Congress and the public to take steps to stabilize agricultural employment and to raise the standard of living of agricultural workers. It seems clear that the commercial farmers' lobby will use immense pressure to forestall such action with the national emergency as both cloak and weapon. The National Sharecroppers Fund (and all other interested organizations) must assure our farm workers that they will not be forgotten in the rush of mobilization. Certainly the workers who perform the most fundamental tasks in clothing and feeding a large part of the world are deservig of a fair portion of the products which they harvest. It is our duty to continue to inform the public and to give maximum help to the organizations who have continuously led the campaign to bring our farm workers into the community of free, healthy and economically secure American citizens. This opportunity may not come again.